

AUSTRALIAN OPEN TEAM PLAYOFFS SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS 2016

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1 General

- 1.1 The 2016 Australian Open Team Playoffs (OP) are conducted by the ABF in accordance with the ABF Tournament Regulations (ABF TR) as augmented by these Supplementary Regulations.
- 1.2 The venue is the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1 Binara St, Canberra, ACT.
- 1.3 Players must use the methods and equipment in the manner specified by the Tournament Organiser (TO). Players must record the score for each board after it is played and before the commencement of the next board. It is an offence to leave the table at the conclusion of a match without first confirming the completeness and validity of the data entered into the scoring unit. Every player present at the table is equally responsible for the accuracy of the scores.
- 1.4 Smoking is not permitted inside the venue, nor in any area defined by the TO as a non-smoking area. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.5 Consumption of alcohol is not permitted in the playing room during session time. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.6 During the session, any electronic communication equipment is prohibited in the playing area and other areas designated by the TO. However any such equipment may be deposited with the TO before each session. Breach of this regulation incurs a disciplinary penalty (see 6.2).
- 1.7 Expressions used in these Regulations and not defined shall have their ordinary meaning in the contract bridge terminology (which may include expressions defined in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge, 2007). In the event of any doubt or dispute as to such meaning, the decision of the Chief Tournament Director (CTD) shall be final and conclusive. Unless repugnant to the context or obvious meaning, all terms defined in the ABF TR shall have the same meaning for the purpose of these Supplementary Regulations.

2 Officials

- 2.1 The Tournament Organiser is Matthew McManus.
- 2.2 The Chief Tournament Director is Matthew McManus.
- 2.3 The Reviewer is Laurie Kelso.
- 2.4 The ABF on site representative is Bruce Neill.

3 Entry

- 3.1 Only teams containing either 4 or 6 members will be accepted.
- 3.2 Only players who have at least 1 Playoff Qualifying Point (PQP) in the Open category are eligible to enter.
- 3.3 All players in the team must be eligible to play for Australia as per the ABF's Eligibility to represent Australia Policy detailed in the appendices. Players entering the Playoff warrant their eligibility to play for Australia. If, at any time after the completion of the Playoffs, any member of a team is found not to be eligible, the team in which the player competed will be disqualified.
- 3.4 All players in the team declare their availability to represent Australia in the Target Event (Section 10 hereunder).
- 3.5 At the time of entry into an event, each Australian resident entrant must be a financial member of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme and of an organisation affiliated to the ABF or to an Australian State Bridge Association.
- 3.6 Once a player is entered in a team he/she is prohibited from withdrawing and entering in another team.
- 3.7 By entering, the team if accepted becomes liable for the entry fee, regardless of whether they actually participate.
- 3.8 By entering, the team undertakes to abide by the general and supplementary regulations for the tournament.
- 3.9 Each nominating team must designate a captain. However, the following are specifically excluded from accepting the role of non-playing captain:
 - i. members of the ABF Management committee,
 - ii. members of the ABF Tournament Committee,
 - iii. any person holding an official position at the event.
- 3.10 No player may nominate for more than one team.
- 3.11 Nominations for the Open Playoffs must be submitted via the ABF Webpage between Saturday December 12, 2015, and 6.00 pm, AEDT, Sunday January 17, 2016.
- 3.12 Nominating teams are ranked according to the total PQP of all members of the team. PQP not earned with any other member of the team will be discounted by 50%. Ties are broken according to the number of PQP obtained from events in category A, then in order, B, C and then D. If still tied the procedure above is repeated using PQPs from the previous year, then by lot.

- 3.13 All entered teams will be listed and ranked in their divisions on the official website on Monday January 18, 2016.
- 3.14 Following the close of entries (but not before that time), a team which entered with four players may augment an additional pair by advising the TO prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, January 25, 2016. The augmented players must satisfy all eligibility requirements detailed in these regulations and the team captain must satisfy the requirements for submission of system cards as detailed in 5.2. The augmentation of a pair will not change the composition of the various Divisions of the event, nor will it result in the alteration of any published draw.
- 3.15 If there is one division only, the entry fee will be \$1620 per team. If eight or more entries are received and there are two divisions, the entry fee will be \$1620 for Division One teams, and \$640 for Division Two teams.
- 3.16 Entry fees must be paid by direct deposit into the ABF Account (BSB: 082968; A/C: 641482644) by the close of business on Wednesday January 20, 2016.
- 3.17 Teams advancing from Division Two to the Repechage are required to pay an additional entry fee of \$980. The additional entry fee must be paid to the TO at the venue.
- 3.18 The ABF policy on entry fees paid by Youth players applies to this event.

4 Substitutions

- 4.1 Substitution shall be permitted only for cause such as illness or personal emergency, not for convenience, when a team is reduced to less than four players.
- 4.2 All substitutes must be approved in advance by the CTD who may permit a substitute judged by him to be of similar standard.
- 4.3 Either of the teams in the match may appeal this judgement of equivalence to a Tournament Sub-Committee convened by the ABF on site representative. Any such appeal must be notified before the commencement of the match or stanza in question.
- 4.4 A player may have a substitute for cause for a maximum of:
 - i. Qualifying – 50% of the matches;
 - ii. 50% of the stanzas in each of the Repechage Finals, Semi-Finals and/or Final.
- 4.5 Boards played by an approved substitute count towards fulfilment of the minimum board requirement of the original player.

5 Systems and Defences

- 5.1 GREEN, BLUE and RED systems are permitted. BROWN STICKER conventions are not allowed.
- 5.2 Team captains are responsible for ensuring that the system cards for every pair are uploaded to the event website prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Monday January 25, 2016. Note that the current electronic ABF Standard System Card must be used. Uploaded system cards will be vetted by the National Event Co-ordinator (NEC). System cards which the NEC deems require amendment must be amended and resubmitted to the NEC prior to 6.00 pm, AEDT, Monday February 1, 2016.

6 Disciplinary and Procedural Penalties

- 6.1 The general provisions of ABF TR 10 concerning punctuality and slow play apply. The table of penalties is listed in the Appendices.
- 6.2 The disciplinary penalty for breach of regulations relating to smoking (1.4), consumption of alcohol (1.5) and mobile phones (1.6) is 3 VPs or 9 IMPs.

7 Correction Period, Time to request a Review

- 7.1 The Correction Period (Law 79C) expires:
 - i.. for the last session of a stage, 30 minutes after the scores for the last stanza of that stage are made available for inspection;
 - ii. for other sessions, 30 minutes before the commencement of the next session.
- 7.2 Scoring errors made by the Official Scorer may be rectified:
 - i. for the last stanza of a stage, within the Correction Period, as defined in 7.1;
 - ii. for other stanzas, until the commencement of the last stanza of that stage.
- 7.3 The Time to request a review of the Director's ruling (Law 92B) expires 30 minutes after the ruling was delivered or 30 minutes after the conclusion of the session in which the ruling was delivered, whichever is later. (For the purposes of this regulation, a ruling delivered less than 30 minutes prior to the start of the following session will be deemed to have been delivered in the following session.)
- 7.4 A session is defined as any stanza of play after which there is comparison of scores by the players, except when the next stanza is scheduled to commence within 30 minutes of the scheduled finishing time of the previous stanza. In such a case, the session is defined as the time from the commencement of the first stanza to the end of the second stanza. Boards played as a tie-break match in accordance with 8.9 will constitute a separate session. The Correction Period and Time to request a Review for a session immediately preceding the play of tie-break boards will expire at the time set by the CTD for the commencement of the tie-break match.

8 Seating, Scoring, Ties, Carry-over

- 8.1 In single round robin matches, seating rights will be determined by toss of a coin.
- 8.2 In double round robin matches, the team numbered first in the draw has choice in the first round robin. Seating rights will be reversed in the corresponding match in the second round robin.
- 8.3 In a head-to-head Knockout match, the winner of a draw for seating rights elects to sit first or last for the first stanza. For subsequent stanzas, the order of seating alternates.
- 8.4 The team captain is responsible for posting the seating positions of the players on the Line-up Form together with the system being played if more than one has been submitted. Posting must be completed at least 10 minutes and 5 minutes before the scheduled time of commencement of play, for the teams sitting first and last respectively. The CTD may alter posting times at his discretion.
- 8.5 The penalties for failure to post seating as required are loss of seating rights AND:
1st offence – warning,

2nd offence – 1 VP,
3rd and subsequent offences – 2 VPs per offence.

- 8.6 Round robin matches are scored by IMP converted to VP using the appropriate WBF scale.
- 8.7 Teams with a bye will be awarded 10 VPs.
- 8.8 In all Repechage, Semi-Finals and Finals matches, the team which finished higher in the Qualifying Stage will carry-forward 0.1 IMPs. Where there are two divisions, and a team from Division One is playing a team from Division Two, the Division One team will carry-forward 0.1 IMPs.
- 8.9 Repechage, Semi-Final and Final matches are scored by IMPs, with any fraction of an IMP constituting a win.
- 8.10 Ties in the round robin occur when two or more teams are on exactly the same VP score.
- 8.11 Ties are broken according to the ABF TR as detailed in the Appendices.

9 Board Rule

- 9.1 There are no minimum board requirements for tie-break matches.
- 9.2 A team is eligible to progress to the next stage and to represent Australia only if each player in the team plays at least:
 - i) one half of the matches in the Qualifying Stage (0.5 rounded down);
 - ii) two stanzas in the Repechage Final (if held);
 - ii) two stanzas in the Semi-Final;
 - iii) three stanzas in the Final.
- 9.3 Notwithstanding 9.2, if a player is unavailable with due cause, the CTD in his sole discretion may deem that player and his nominated partner have fulfilled the board rule and allow the team to progress to the next stage. The CTD may ask for medical certificates or other documentary evidence to satisfy himself as to the nature and severity of any illness or injury.
- 9.4 When a player fails to satisfy the board rule, the ABF Management Committee, in its absolute discretion, following a report from the CTD and ABF Tournament Committee, determines the eligibility of the player, the pair, and the team. Consideration is given first to disqualification of the entire team. This decision is made subsequent to the completion of the event and does not change the format of the event.
- 9.5 For the purpose of the Board Rule, where a match is conceded, players who have not yet satisfied the Board Rule are in fact deemed to have played every remaining stanza of the match.

10 Target Events and Representation

- 10.1 The target event is the 2016 World Bridge Games to be held in Wroclaw, Poland from 3-17 September, 2016.
- 10.2 The right to represent Australia at the target event will be offered to the teams in the order described in 10.3. Except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the ABF Management Committee, if all members of the team do not except the offer, it will pass to the

next ranked team. If a team contains only four members, a third pair will be added to the team in accordance with the provisions of 11 hereunder.

10.3 Ranking order for the right to represent Australia in the target event will be:

- i) the team winning the Final;
- ii) the team defeated in the Final;
- iii) the losing semi-finalist ranked higher on PQP on entry to the Playoff;
- iv) the other semi-finalist.

10.4 Teams winning and/or accepting a place to play in WBF events confirm through such acceptance their knowledge and understanding of the WBF Dress and Drug Codes and regulations and the severe penalties for breaches of such regulations and codes. In summary this code requires players to be dressed in team uniforms for all formal occasions and all play sessions.

11 Withdrawal, Augmentation and Replacement

11.1 Where a team – or teams – having qualified to the next stage of the event, voluntarily withdraws or is disqualified through failure to meet the board rule or for any other reason under the laws, the following procedures shall be implemented:

11.1.1 From the Qualifying stage, the team will be replaced by the next highest placed team.

11.1.2 From the Semi-Finals or Repechage Finals (if held), the team will be replaced by the team it defeated in the Semi-Final or Repechage Final respectively.

11.2 Where a team of four has won the right to represent Australia in a designated event, whether having entered the Playoffs as a team of four or having become a team of four following a withdrawal permitted under 10.2 preceding, they must augment to a team of six.

11.3 The team shall prepare an ordered short-list of eligible pairs for submission to the ABF Tournament Committee (ABFTC).

11.4 To be included on the list each member of the pair must have participated in the Open Playoff event, although not necessarily as a partnership.

11.5 The list should include a brief summary of each pair's experience (as a partnership) and a list of their most recent achievements. A statement from each nominee confirming their availability for the respective target event must also be included.

11.6 The ordered short-list (consisting of at least three, but no more than six pairs) must be submitted to the Chairman of the ABFTC within 10 days of the conclusion of the Playoffs. The ABFTC will then make a recommendation to the ABF Management Committee for endorsement.

11.7 If the ordered short list is not received within 10 days the ABFTC will make a recommendation to the ABF Management Committee on the basis of its own judgement.

12 Event formats

12.1 Qualifying Stage

- 12.1.1 **One Division – entry of fewer than eight teams.** The Qualifying Stage will be played over three days with a round robin format dependent on the exact number of entries (see Appendix). Teams will retain their team number throughout. The draw for the second (and third) round robin will be based on the first round robin draw adjusted to reflect the team's placing after the preceding round robin. The leading team will have the draw for team #1, second for team # 2, etc. If there are six or seven entries, the four leading teams at the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage will qualify to the Semi-Finals. If there are fewer than six entries, there will be no semi-finals and the two leading teams at the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage will qualify to the Final.
- 12.1.2 **Two Divisions – entry of eight or more teams.** The four teams ranked highest on PQP will qualify to Division One and play a double round robin. The remaining entrants form Division Two and over two days will play in a format determined by the number of entrants (see Appendix). The two highest placed teams from Division One will qualify directly to the Semi-Finals. The other two Division One teams will qualify to the Repechage Finals, along with the two highest placed teams from Division Two.
- 12.2 **Repechage Finals**
The Repechage Finals, if held, will be played over 64 boards in four stanzas of 16. The team which finished third in Division One will have choice of opponent from the two teams which qualified from Division Two. Scoring will be by net IMPs. The two Repechage Final winning teams will qualify to the Semi-Finals.
- 12.3 **Semi-Finals**
The Semi-Finals, if held, will be played over 64 boards in four stanzas of 16. Scoring will be by net IMPs. The two Semi-Final winning teams will qualify to the Final.
- 12.3.1 If there has been one division in the Qualifying Stage, the team finishing first chooses their opponent from the other qualifying teams, with the proviso that that the team finishing second may opt not to be chosen.
- 12.3.2 If there have been two divisions in the Qualifying Stage, the team finishing first in Division One chooses their opponent from the two Repechage Final winners.
- 12.4 **Final**
The Final will be played over 96 boards in six stanzas of 16.
- 12.5 The time allowed per stanza will be announced by the CTD.

Appendices

Penalties for Late Arrival or Slow Play

0-5 mins	warning for first offence, then 1 VP (3 IMPs) for each subsequent offence
5-10 mins	1 VP (3 IMPs)
10-15 mins	2 VPs (6 IMPs)
15-20 mins	3 VPs (9 IMPs)
20-30 mins	5 VPs (15 IMPs)

For late arrival in excess of 30 minutes, the CTD may assess a more severe penalty including forfeiture of the match and/or disqualification from the event.

When boards are cancelled by the director due to a failure to complete them on time and a slow play warning has previously been issued to a pair, the following penalties may be applied at the director's discretion:

One board	1 VP (3 IMPs)
Subsequent boards	2 VPs (6 IMPs)

Tie-breaking

At the conclusion of the Qualifying Stage, critical ties for qualification to the next stage are broken by playing four more boards then, if still tied, by playing one board at a time until the tie is broken or until the scheduled finishing time as announced by the CTD (whichever is sooner), then by the method for breaking ties for ranking. A tie involving more than two teams is broken by playoff boards in a format as determined by the CTD.

Other ties (for ranking purposes) are broken by (in order): number of wins in VPs (10 VPs = ½ win), net IMPs, lot.

Proposed formats

Division 1				Division 2		
# Teams	# Round Robins	# matches	# boards/match	# Round Robins	# matches	# boards/match
4	3	9	20	-	-	-
5	3	15	12	-	-	-
6	3	15	12	-	-	-
7	2	14	12	-	-	-
8	2	6	20	2	6	20
9	2	6	20	2	10	12
10	2	6	20	2	10	12
11	2	6	20	1	7	16
12	2	6	20	1	7	16
13	2	6	20	1	9	12
14	2	6	20	1	9	12

Eligibility to represent Australia

Only financial members of the ABF Masterpoint Scheme are eligible.

An eligible person must also be able to establish one or more of the following:

- is eligible to hold an Australian passport and demonstrably regards Australia as his/her home, even though he/she might spend much of his/her time working overseas;
- is an Australian citizen enrolled on the Australian federal and/or Australian State/Territory electoral roll(s);
- is of dual citizenship (holds an Australian passport and the passport of another country) and demonstrably regards Australia as home, even though he/she might spend much of his/her time working overseas;
- is of any nationality and holds a current Australian visa issued for a period of not less than three years;
- is a current temporary resident, and can satisfy the ABF Management Committee that he/she will be eligible to, and is in the process of becoming, a permanent Australian resident;

- f. is of a nationality that does not require an Australian visa to reside in Australia and demonstrably regards Australia as home;
- g. is of a nationality that does not require an Australian visa to work in Australia and demonstrably earns a significant proportion of his/her livelihood in Australia.

In WBF events WBF regulations relating to a player's eligibility to represent Australia will prevail.

Any players (including youth players) who seek to represent another NBO in an international (target) event in a calendar year are ineligible to seek (via an Australian Playoff) to represent Australia in the same target event in the same calendar year

In the case of dispute, interpretation of these regulations is at the absolute discretion of the ABF Management Committee. Any player in doubt about his eligibility to represent Australia in any calendar year must seek clarification from the Chairman of the ABF Tournament Committee on or before 31 December, 2015. The Chairman may in turn seek guidance from the ABF Management Committee

Anticipated Finishing Time

The following times are provided solely as a guide to players and may change due to circumstances beyond the control of the TO:

Qualifying (2 division format)	5.30 pm, Sunday, February 7
Repechage Finals (2 division format)	7.50 pm, Monday, February 8
Semi-Finals	7.50 pm, Tuesday, February 9
Final	6.30 pm, Thursday, February 11